

REMARKS

Claims 16-75 were pending at the time of the last office action. Applicant has amended claims 16-18, 20, 24, and 33; and canceled claims 23, 27, 29-32, 34, 37, 38, and 42-75. Thus, claims 16-22, 24-26, 28, 33, 35, 36, and 39-41 are now pending.

Statute	Claims	Reference(s)
103(a)	16-19	Morrison and Sumita
102(e)	20-21, 24-26, 28, 33, 35, 36, 39, and 41	Rangan
103(a)	22	Rangan and Abrams
103(a)	40	Rangan and Swix

Claims 16-22, 24-26, and 28 now recite that multiple comment sets or meta data sets are associated with a television program (or media content). In addition, some of these claims additionally recite that a viewer is entitled to access some of the sets, but not all the sets, of a television program. In rejecting the pending claims, the Examiner relies primarily on Morrison and Rangan. Neither reference, nor any other reference that the Examiner relies upon in rejecting the claims, teaches or suggests such multiple sets or restricting access of a viewer to some of the sets.

Morrison describes searching through an electronic program guide for programs that match a search criteria and displaying information about programs that match. Sumita, which the Examiner combines with Morrison, describes searching for scenes of a program that have a certain keyword registered to the scene. Although both Morrison and Sumita describe information associated with a program and performing searches based on that information, neither teaches or suggests that meta data provided by viewers is organized into "sets of meta data" for a television program and that the search is performed on a set of meta data "that the second viewer is entitled to access and that "the second viewer [is] not entitled to access all sets of meta data."

Rangan describes creating an enhanced multimedia stream with a video stream and an annotation stream. Rangan, however, neither teaches nor suggests that multiple annotation streams are associated with a video stream or that access to annotation streams is restricted such that some viewers have access to an annotation stream of a video stream, but not other annotation streams of that video stream.

Claims 16-19 are directed to rendering portions of a television program that have multiple sets of meta data and that access to the sets is restricted. The claims recite that meta data "provided by first viewers of the television program" is "organized into sets of meta data for the television program." The claims also recite that "the second viewer [is] not entitled to access all sets of meta data" (i.e., restricted access) and that "each second viewer can view different portions of the television program based on their input search criteria and the selected set of meta data provided by a first viewer of the television program that the second viewer is entitled to access." Thus, these claims recite both multiple sets and restricted access.

Claims 20-22 recite "the comments [for media content] being stored in a plurality of comment sets" and searching "the comments of a specified comment set of the media content for comments that match the request." Thus, these claims recite multiples sets.

Claims 24-26 and 28 recite "each comment set associated with a particular group of viewers." Thus, these claims recite both multiple sets and restricted access.

Claims 33, 35, 36 and 39-41 recite that a "synchronization point can be identified in each version of the multimedia program based on analysis of content of that version of the multimedia program" and that the synchronization point occurs "at different offsets from the beginning of the different versions of the multimedia program." Because different versions of a multimedia program can have somewhat different content, the corresponding scene or point within two different versions may occur at

different offsets from the beginning of the versions. For example, one version may have advertisements at the beginning of the program, and another version might not have those advertisements. As a result, the scenes showing at, for example, 20 minutes into the program may be very different. The synchronization point as recited by these claims is based on analysis of content of the version, rather than an offset from the beginning of the program. As a result, the synchronization point can be identified in each version and use of "the synchronization point as a reference for a comment" allows the comment to be associated with the same scene independent of the version.

The Examiner relies on Rangan at 7:19-25 as describing a synchronization point. This relied-upon portion of Rangan describes frame-to-frame tracking of movement of an image in a video stream. A synchronous data stream is created that contains the frame-to-frame coordinates of the image. The frame-to-frame coordinates can be used to add advertisements to the appropriate location on a frame when the video stream is rendered.

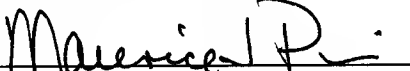
Although applicant disagrees that this relied-upon portion of Rangan describes a synchronization point, applicant has amended these claims to make it clear that the synchronization point is used to identify where comments are to be associated in different versions of the program. Rangan neither teaches nor suggests such synchronization points or its use with different versions of a program.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268854US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Maurice J. Pirio

Registration No.: 33,273
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8548
(206) 359-9000 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant